



February 15, 2007

Dear Resident/Property Owner:

In December, the U.S. EPA announced that it would be conducting the Highway 7 & Wooddale Avenue Soil Vapor Study near your property. After testing approximately 200 homes and businesses, the EPA has decided to expand the testing area to include your property. Representatives from the EPA will be in your neighborhood soon asking for your help in this study.

The purpose of the study is to determine the impact of contamination found in the area. Some of the fresh water found underground (known as groundwater in environmental terms) has become contaminated and could release vapors that can rise through the soil and seep through basement and foundation cracks and holes into indoor air. This is known as "vapor intrusion."

Beginning in January and continuing this month, the EPA tested approximately 200 homes and businesses where it suspected contamination existed in the groundwater. The initial sampling determined that ground water contamination existed at about 45 properties. Indoor air samples are now being collected in those homes and businesses to determine if the soil vapors are seeping into the buildings. The presence of vapors in the ground does not mean that the vapors are intruding into the buildings. If it is determined that vapors exist, the problem can easily be mitigated. The cost of that mitigation would be fully covered for homeowners by the EPA.

The EPA will be needing property owners to sign access agreements so workers can take soil and air samples around and in your home or building.

We understand that receiving notice of this soil vapor study introduces a complicated issue to you, but we're here to assure you that we will make certain that the state and federal government hears our community's concerns and adequately answers your questions and our own. At this point:

- The EPA and state agencies have informed us that there is **no evidence to suggest** that the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) they will be studying are causing **imminent danger** to our residents.

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- The VOCs to be studied do not compromise our drinking water. **The city's drinking water** is drawn from deep aquifers, is tested on a regular basis and it **remains safe** from the threat of these types of VOCs.
- The **source** of the groundwater contamination releasing the soil vapors **is yet unknown**, however, it has been determined that **the contamination does not result from the former Reilly Tar and Chemical site**. The EPA will be conducting further investigation of the source(s) during its study.

What can you do as a property owner?

- Allow the EPA to test your property to ensure that your home or business is safe from these vapors. It is imperative that if your building shows elevated levels of VOCs that you mitigate it. The EPA will cover the cost of this remediation for homeowners, so it's important that you allow the testing at this time.
- Visit the city's website to learn more about the study, contact the city or our partners at the EPA, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency or the Minnesota Department of Health with questions (contact information included in this letter).
- View the public meeting held in December addressing the soil vapor study on Civic TV channel 17 if you are a Comcast Cable subscriber or watch the meeting online at www.stlouispark.org.

As you know, the City of St. Louis Park is committed to the environmental health of this community, so please take the time to learn about the study and its importance to you as a property owner.

We thank you in advance for engagement in the study, and please don't hesitate to contact the city, state or federal officials if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Hoffman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Hoffman, Inspections Director/Study Project Manager

Enclosures:

Highway 7 & Wooddale Ave. Soil Vapor Study Contacts
Highway 7 & Wooddale Ave. Soil Vapor Study Map

Highway & Wooddale Ave. Soil Vapor Study Contacts

For information on the testing and cleanup, contact the EPA:

Sonia Vega

On-Scene Coordinator

651-296-7361

vega.sonia@epa.gov

Cheryl Allen

Community Involvement Coordinator

800-621-8431, Ext. 36196

allen.cheryl@epa.gov

For information about health effects associated with soil vapors, contact the MDH:

James Kelly, M.S.

651-201-4910

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Tannie Eshenaur

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For information about the study areas and background information, contact the MPCA:

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Project Manager

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Public Information Officer

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For general questions, contact the City of St. Louis Park:

Brian Hoffman

Inspections Director/Project Manager

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